IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-14 and 15-18 and add claims 19-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for determining a selection vector which represents a ~~possible~~ displacement vector for a displacement of an image area ~~(1)~~ from a first position ~~(P1)~~ in a first image ~~(B1)~~ to a second position ~~(P2)~~ in a second image ~~(B2)~~, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising the steps of:~~comprises:~~

a) Supplying a set of prediction vectors ~~(V1, V2, V3, V4)~~;

b) Supplying a ~~at least one fixed~~ set of test vectors ~~(T1, T2, T3)~~;

c) Selecting at least one test vector from the set of test vectors ~~(T1, T2, T3, T4)~~, and performing an image comparison between a first image area ~~(1)~~ in the first image ~~(B1)~~ and a second image area ~~(2)~~ in the second image ~~(B2) in order~~ to obtain an image comparison result B~~(Tn)~~, ~~wherein~~ a~~the~~ position of the second image area ~~(2)~~ is displaced relative to the first image area ~~(1)~~ by the at least one selected test vector;

d) Comparing the at least one selected test vector ~~(T1-T3)~~ with at least one selected prediction vector ~~(V1-V4) in order~~ to obtain at least one vector comparison result V~~(Tn, Vn)~~ for each selected test vector ~~(T1-T3)~~;

e) Supplying at least one quality characteristic ~~(G(Tn, Vn))~~ for each selected test vector ~~(T1-T3)~~ from both the image comparison result obtained for each selected ~~this~~ test vector ~~(T1-T3)~~, and from the a~~ vector comparison result for each selected test vector ~~(V(Tn,Vn))~~;

f) Determining a ranking order of the quality characteristics ~~(G(Tn,Vn))~~; and

g) Selecting one of the selected test vectors as the selection vector from the ~~at least one fixed~~ set of test vectors based on the ranking order of the quality characteristics.

2. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, where one set of test vectors is assigned to each prediction vector ~~(V1-V4)~~ or to one group each of the prediction vectors ~~(V1-V4)~~, where the step of comparing utilizes ~~from which set~~ the test vector set to compare at least one selected test vector from the test vector set with at least one selected prediction vector~~perform the vector comparison is selected~~.

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, where ~~during~~ the ~~comparison~~ step of comparing~~d)~~ determines a measure of a~~the~~ difference between each of the selected test vectors ~~(T1-T3)~~ and the at least one selected prediction vector ~~(V1-V4) is determined~~.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, where step c) is implemented for all the test vectors ~~(T1, T2, T3)~~.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, where step d) is implemented for all the prediction vectors ~~(V1-V4)~~.

6. (Currently Amended)   The ~~A~~ method of claim 1, further comprising the step of linking ~~where~~ the image comparison result ~~(B(Tn)) assigned to~~ for a selected one of the ~~selected~~ test vectors and the vector comparison result for a ~~assigned to one of the~~ selected one of the prediction ~~motion~~ vectors, where ~~are linked in such a way that given the same image comparison result (B(Tn))~~ the quality characteristic ~~G(Tn, Vn)~~ improves the less the selected test vector ~~(T1-T3)~~ and the selected prediction vector ~~(V1-V4)~~ differ from each other.

7. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, <u>further comprising the step of determining</u> ~~wherein~~ at least one test vector ~~(V1-V4) is determined~~ for each prediction vector ~~(V1-V4)~~, <u>and</u> wherein the selection vector is selected from a<u>the</u> <u>plurality of the</u> ~~group of~~ test vectors determined thereby.

8. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wher~~ein~~<u>e</u> ~~the procedural~~ steps c) through f) are performed at least twice, wher~~ein~~<u>e</u> according to ~~procedural~~ step g) at least one test vector ~~(Ti)~~ is selected based on the ranking order of the quality characteristics ~~(G(Tn, Vn))~~, and wher~~ein~~<u>e</u> ~~based on this~~ at least one test vector ~~(Ti)~~ <u>in</u> a set of <u>selected</u> test vectors ~~(112)~~ is generated for the subsequent image comparison in step c).

9. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 8, where ~~for each prediction vector~~ during the ~~performance of~~ steps c) through f) one test vector is determined<u> for each prediction vector, and</u> where ~~based on which~~ a set of test vectors <u>is generated </u>for the subsequent image comparison <u>in</u> <u>step c)</u>~~is generated~~.

10. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 8, where from the <u>selected</u> ~~at least one~~ test vector ~~(Ti)~~ selected according to ~~procedural~~ step g), one test vector ~~(Ti1-Ti4)~~ of the set of test vectors ~~(112)~~ is generated for the ~~subsequent~~ image comparison <u>in step c) </u>by vector~~ial~~ addition <u>with</u> ~~of~~ at least one modification vector ~~(M1-M4)~~.

11. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 10, where from the <u>selected</u> ~~at least one~~ test

vector ~~(Ti)~~ selected according to ~~procedural~~ step g), multiple test vectors ~~(Ti1-Ti4)~~ are respectively generated by vectorial addition of multiple modification vectors ~~(M1-M4)~~.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, where with each repetition of ~~procedural~~ steps c) through f), the modification vectors ~~are~~ employed ~~which~~ match in terms of their direction and ~~, but~~ the absolute value of ~~which~~ the modification vectors becomes smaller in subsequent ~~from~~ iterations of steps c) through f)~~step to iteration step~~.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, where the modification vectors are a function of the ~~previously~~ determined quality characteristic supplied ~~assigned to~~ for the selected test vector.

14. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 13, where an ~~the~~ absolute value of the modification vector becomes smaller as the quality characteristic improves.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of ~~for~~ supplying a set of selection vectors as a function of ~~by employing~~ a set of prediction vectors ~~(101)~~ and a set of test vectors ~~(102)~~.

17. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1~~0~~, further comprising the step of storing ~~where~~ the selection vectors ~~are stored~~ as new prediction vectors.

18. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1~~0~~, <u>further comprising the steps of</u> ~~where the selection vectors are~~ preset<u>ting or</u> ~~or are~~ modif<u>ying</u>~~ied~~ <u>the selection vectors</u> according to a random scheme<u>,</u> and stor<u>ing the preset or modified selection vectors</u> ~~ed~~ as new prediction vectors.

19. (New)   A method for determining a selection vector which represents a displacement vector for a displacement of an image area from a first position in a first image to a second position in a second image, the method comprising the steps of:

iteratively selecting a test vector from a set of test vectors, and iteratively performing an image comparison between a first image area in the first image and a second image area in the second image to obtain an image comparison result;

iteratively comparing the selected test vector with a prediction vector to obtain a vector comparison result;

iteratively supplying a quality characteristic for the selected test vector from both the image comparison result and from the vector comparison result;

determining a ranking order of a plurality of quality characteristics; and

selecting one of the test vectors as the selection vector based on the ranking order of the quality characteristics.

20. (New)   The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of linking the image comparison result for a selected one of the test vectors and the vector comparison result for a

selected one of the prediction vectors, where the quality characteristic improves the less the selected test vector and the selected prediction vector differ from each other.